

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 31, 1899

May 31st 1899. My dear Alec,

No letter from you today, and though one was hardly expected, still it would have been very welcome. By the way, you said that Frank was acting as your secretary, I am glad that you did not take Mr Atwater. Still I do not care to have Frank read all my letters to you, so wont you either burn them up on receipt, or put them away yourself. I am sure Mr McCurdy does not read mine, but I am quite sure that he has plenty of chances to if he wants to, and I dont like the idea of Franks doing so.. You carry my letters around for a while, and then put them around. I have often found them loose, and I dont like it.

I wish that you would?eld me what I am to do about a certain young man that I have told you of. He has been here every day this week and will come all through the rest on one excuse or another. He has not said anything to me, but he knows that I know all that has passed between them, and if I allow things to go on as they are wont he be justified in assuming that we are willing? Elsie thinks she is as fancy free as ever, but she wants rim all the time I do not know exactly what to think of the situation. He is in no position to marry, and ought perhaps not to speak. Yet can you blame him? I am sure he can be trusted to be kind to her

Elsie offered to give up dancing today if necessary to get one of her sunday school scholars to join the church. I am glad that she was not taken at her word, but she ir very much interested in them.

Grace is at Atlantic City, and Charlie reports that she is doing very well, and will be ready to return in time for the unveiling of the tablet to Papa in the Church of the Covenant next Sunday. I wish that you the eldest son could be there, wont you telegraph Mamma! The

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stained glass window that Mamma is going to put up in the church its to have the figure of the Sower on it against a back ground of the setting sun. He is to be sowing with a full hand while rippened ears of otaer grains are growing around to typify the fact that he died while still sowing, while good seed was dropping from his hand, and the seeds of other years were bearing fruit around him. Of course the idea is Mamma's but we all like it. Please just send her a message about it to show your interest. Did I tell you that Elsie and Gilbert went for a horse-back ride the other morning at half past six o'clock? Daisy was to have gone also, but at the last moment she was not well, and did not so Elsie Gilbert and Harry Kerr started Gilbert had never been on horse-back before and the order was for a very quiet horse, Instead they gave him a very spirited one. The consequence was that Gilbert was runaway with, thrown from the horse twice, and jumped from it once. He came home with his coat buttoned up very tight, his collar turned up, and general appearance of seediness, but it was only last night that I could get the full story. Gilbert says that he had a beautiful time, and is going to ride finely next time. He got a bad strach on his cheek, and a cut on his neck that his turned up collar hid from me, and from all accounts he must have had a bad fall, but he seems to have plenty of spirit and go, and to have taken the whole thing as a beautiful experience. But he did go around to the stable, and prevailed on the mistress not only to moderate hee indignation at the way her horse had been treated, but to apologize most humbly for having given him such a horse. I think th?s also is an accomplishment for a young man.. I dont believe that Milbert intends to be sat down on unnecessarily.

You asked me what we should give Mr McInness to show our appreciation. That is a matter that requires consideration. I asked Mr McCurdy, and his suggestions were of course both rather remarkable. He said that the thing that Mr McInness most wanted was a new houn. Failing that he suggested a gold headed cane!. What he could ever do with such a thing in Baddeck, I cant imagine, but I suppose people do appreciate things that they have no use for, and therefore would never feel that they could buy, more than things that they would have to get. Anyway I am not ready with any suggestions myself.

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With much love

How would you like to live in this hourie now with three type-writers going full speed!

As ever yours Mabel.